

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Midland Laboratories Factory and Warehouse
210 Jones Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-BM

HABS
IOWA
31-DUBU,
13-BM-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 210 Jones Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 5.10
Cadastral grid: NE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691960.4706900
Lot dimensions: 146'x 150': .50 acre
Lot description: Lots 1 and 2 of City Lot 541,
City Lot 542, Lots 1 and 2 of
Lot 2 of City Lot 543.

Present Owner: Midland Laboratories, Inc.
Present Usage: factory / warehouse
Present Condition: good

Overall Dimensions: 155'x 128'; 2 stories

Orientation: north

Architectural Plan type: 2-story trapezoid with corner entrance.

Description: Foundation: (below grade)

Structure: wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls.
Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond with
glazed brick inserts; concrete block copings
on top of parapets.

Roof: flat composition roof with brick parapet walls.

Chimneys: none

Openings: painted wood 4/4 double-hung windows on 2nd
floor, 1st floor windows infilled with glass
block; both floors have continuous glazed brick
bands at the heads, glazed brick surrounds with
concrete corner blocks and concrete slip sills;
main entrance in northwest corner features
single-leaf anodized aluminum door and terra
cotta surround with MIDLAND cast into head.

Details: minimally corbeled brick courses on parapets.

Construction Date: 1908

Architecture Style: 20th Century Functional

Physical History: The Midland Chemical Company built this immense two-story brick block in 1908 to house its growing cleaning solvent manufacturing business. Located on the former site of Nathaniel S. Andrew's creamery and dairy supply building, Midland's building originally featured a typically detailed 19th Century Functional brick facade, with corbeled brick coping, multi-light double-hung wood windows headed by segmental arches and a series of wagon doors headed by semi-circular arches. At some point the facade was reconstructed

entirely to its present configuration, featuring glass block windows and glazed brick belt courses and window and door surrounds. Subsequent alterations have been comparatively minor.

Significance: Born in 1874 in Wayne County, Iowa, Lorenzo O. Hillyard worked his way through school as a newsboy, dishwasher and telephone operator in Omaha and later as a teamster for the Standard Oil Company in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was promoted from this latter job to the position of general tank wagon superintendent for eleven states. Hillyard parlayed his extensive knowledge of disinfectants gained from Standard into his own business when he moved to Dubuque in 1901 and began small-scale chemical manufacturing. Two years later Hillyard formed the Midland Chemical Company to produce chemical cleaners and disinfectants; he incorporated the company in 1907. A Republican, an Elk and an Episcopalian, he was active in Dubuque's civic and financial circles. A 1911 business directory stated, "This firm is a manufacturer of disinfectants of every kind for general and particular uses, some of the special products being Anti-Germine, Dripoleum, Germolium Black Disinfectants, Sheep Dips, Cedarine Dust Layer, Sweeping and Scrubbing Compounds, Liquid and Powdered Soaps, Midland Polish and French Floor Dressing." That year the firm employed 20 salesmen to market its many products nationally. By 1930 Midland fielded 68 salesmen and produced some 71 cleaning solvents. Midland eventually burgeoned into one of the largest solvent producers in the country, and it still operates from this building. The structure is historically significant for its association with this important Dubuque industry. Its major exterior renovation has obscured its early 20th century design, however, limiting its architectural value.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1903-1918.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-16-8-1.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Franklin T. Oldt and P.J. Quigley, *History of Dubuque County, Iowa* (Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911), page 610.
H.W. Gardner, *Greater Dubuque* (Dubuque: Times Journal, 1911), page 48.
"Dubuque - Home of National Chemical Business," *Dubuque Business*, May 1930, page 10.
Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, 23 March 1913.

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